

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following new paragraph between paragraphs [15] and [16] on page 6 between lines 2 and 3.

--FIG. 2A is a sectional view of the part-holding fixture in an axial plane of rotation arranged for grinding a bottom surface of an optical flat.--

Please replace paragraph [27] beginning on page 9, line 21.

Prior to grinding the top surface 74, the optical flat 50 is preferably mounted on an alternative part-holding fixture ~~(not shown)~~ 40a, as shown in FIG. 2A, with its planar surface 72 aligned normal with the common rotational axis 14 of the alternative part-holding fixture 40a and the work spindle 12 for grinding the bottom surface 72. The part-holding fixture 40a is similar to the part-holding fixture 40 and the same reference numerals are used to designate the similar parts. However, the mounting lands 62a on the curved surface 78a of the mounting rim 56a lie in a plane having a normal 70a aligned with the common rotational axis 14 of the part-holding fixture 40a. Thus, the bottom surface 72 is ground to a planar form having a planar surface normal 70 that extends parallel to the common rotational axis 14 of the alternative part-holding fixture 40a and the work spindle 12.